

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a responsibility for ensuring that properties of a cultural, historical, or traditional nature located on Corps lands are preserved and managed appropriately. The Corps implements its program, commonly termed *Cultural Resource Management*, in a positive manner that fulfills the spirit as well as the letter of laws, regulations, and policies, for all project undertakings, in an environmentally and economically sound manner, and in the interest of the American public. Cultural resources can include prehistoric and historic period archeological sites, buildings and structures, written records, objects, and traditional cultural properties.

Associated with the Corps' stated management policy is our responsibility to enforce specific Federal laws and regulations pertaining to Native American Indian rights, and the protection of all cultural resources from looting and vandalism. Native American Indians inhabited this area during prehistoric times and American settlers in later historic times. Some Native Americans established permanent residence here, relying on native plants and animals for their sustenance, while others may have been merely passing through the region. Early American settlers established farmsteads and small towns and villages. In either instance, knowledge of these early inhabitants has been and continues to be learned largely from the study of the artifacts that they left behind. Frequently much of the information obtainable from such items lies in their location in relation to other items at archeological sites. Although it is very tempting to pick up an artifact such as an arrowhead or pottery fragment, such action destroys the knowledge that could be obtained from it.

Furthermore, removal of any artifact, prehistoric or historic, from Federal lands is a violation of both Federal regulations and Federal law. Conviction can result in both substantial financial penalty and incarceration. Part of our responsibility to preserve and protect these resources is provided by the *Rules and Regulations Governing Public Use of Water Resources Development Projects* (36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 327). Persons can be cited under Title 36 CFR Section 327.14(a) [Destruction, injury, defacement, removal or any alteration of public property including, but not limited to, developed facilities, natural formations, mineral deposits, historical and archeological features, and vegetative growth, is prohibited except when it is in accordance with written permission of the District Engineer] and fined up to \$5,000.00 and receive six months imprisonment. Persons engaging in more serious forms of destruction of archeological resources may be prosecuted under the *Archeological Resources Protection Act* (ARPA). An ARPA conviction could be as much as a \$250,000.00 fine and five years imprisonment. An especially significant traditional resource is the burial places of prehistoric and historic period inhabitants. A person found to be desecrating these burial places could be punished with an ARPA conviction.

It is all of our responsibilities to ensure that the cultural resources present on Corps of Engineer properties are managed to the benefit of everyone. To prevent the destruction of these sensitive resources and prevent possible prosecution, please leave any artifact found where you see it. If you see anyone picking up such items or digging in a site, please report this to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dale Hollow Lake Project Office (931) 243-3166, or email the Dale Hollow Lake staff.

Remember: These resources are part of our collective heritage, and it is up to all of us to help preserve this heritage.